



HOW TO PLANT A TREE

1. Gently remove tree from container. Tap sides & bottom of container and gently slide tree from container. Handle carefully, supporting root ball and trunk. To avoid serious damage, do not yank or pull tree by trunk.

2. Locate the “root flare.” (Topmost root, where the trunk meets the roots). Gently remove excess soil on the surface until the root flare is visible.

3. Correct circling & girdling roots. Remove girdling and correct circling roots to encourage healthy root development, lateral expansion and stability in the landscape.

- ✓ Cut girdling roots using hand pruners, pruning saws or loppers. This will help prevent interference with trunk and tree death and stability issues.
- ✓ Correct excessive circling roots to encourage healthy root development, lateral expansion and avoid a “root bound” condition. Make 4 vertical slices (~1/2” deep) along the outer edges of the root ball.

4. Determine planting hole depth and adjust if necessary. Planting at the proper depth is critical to health and survival. Planting slightly shallow (2 inches above grade) will position the roots closer to the surface to locate moisture, nutrients and oxygen easier.

- Set tree in middle of hole with root flare above surface and visible:
 - ✓ If root flare sits below ground, add soil at bottom of hole to prevent deep-planting.

- ✓ If root collar sits higher than 2 inches above grade, remove additional soil at bottom.

5. Place tree in planting hole in an upright position.

- ✓ Be sure tree is in an upright position and is not leaning.
- ✓ View tree from different angles; ask others to help you determine if centered and straight.

6. Backfill planting hole with soil, gently but firmly.

- ✓ Backfill with soil gently and firmly tamp out air pockets and prevent roots from drying out.
- ✓ Stabilize the root ball by packing soil around the base.

7. Remove all labels, tags, ties, trunk wrap and other supporting materials. These materials may interfere with proper development and growth.

8. Prune off any broken/damaged or crossing/rubbing branches. Use hand-pruning shears to remove defective branches.

- ✓ Make cuts just outside forks (nodes), preserving branch collar (swollen area).
- ✓ Avoiding cutting “flush” with the stem.
- ✓ Do not leave branch stubs.